

## SEEKING SURBITON'S SEETHING WELLS

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### ABSTRACT

Seething Wells is an area in Surbiton [e.g., KT6 5NP]. According to Richardson [1888], the “*Seething Well*” spring probably was on land surveyed for the Lambeth Water Company in 1848, prior to waterworks construction, and from it a small stream ran down to the Thames. Ayliffe [1914] observed that at the end of the old Fox and Hounds pub was a building that contained the original well and spring known as “*Seething Wells*”. Tithe records supported Richardson’s view and identified the old Fox and Hounds pub, according to Ayliffe. They were referring to different features. In a spring, water issues from the surface by itself and possibly may be described as “*seething*” from the ground. For a well, a shaft is dug to obtain underground water. By 1858, Richardson’s spring had disappeared following the development of the waterworks along the Portsmouth Road. However, a well head can be seen on the derelict Chelsea waterworks and this may have been the well reported by Ayliffe, although it is almost opposite the former Globe pub, which is in Kingston [KT6 5PT]. Perhaps this well was utilised in the waterworks. Possibly, Richardson’s spring was on the derelict Lambeth Waterworks site in Long Ditton, roughly between the existing old Pump House and the junction of Simpson Way with Portsmouth Road [KT6 4ER]. Reports originating in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the spring water was warm in the winter while being cold in the summer, or was warm, or was hot, were without evidential foundation. Reports originating in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the water was used to treat eye afflictions, such as ophthalmia, would be reasonable if it was non-irritant. Belief in the existence of a spa at Seething Wells possibly originated in a version of Wyld’s Railway Guide, published around 1839, to encourage railway tourism. It continued with the wishful thinking of Walford [1898], and was echoed by Butters [2013]. No evidence was found that there ever was a spa at Seething Wells.

### INTRODUCTION

Research on the Seething Wells district of Surbiton was undertaken. Some records were sourced from the websites of *Ancestry*, *Find my Past*, the *National Library of Scotland*’s website [OS Maps] and *The Genealogist*’s website [Tithe maps]. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word “*Seething*” is derived from the Middle English word “*sethen*” which was used to connote the bubbling appearance of boiling

water and “*Seething*” was used figuratively by the translator John Davies [1625-1693] for the appearance of spring water that fell into a pool. And the OED says that the word “*well*”, among other things, was an archaic term for a spring of water rising to the surface of the earth and forming a small pool or flowing in a stream. In more modern usage a “*well*” can be a shaft sunk into the ground and lined with stone or other protection for obtaining subterranean water, e.g., artesian well. Moreover, “*spring*” can connote a place where water wells up from the earth.<sup>1</sup>

John Roque’s map of Surrey [1787], located “*Siden Wells*” along what is now the Portsmouth Road roughly halfway between “*Surbeton*” and “*Ditton*”. Land at “*Seden Wells*” was occupied by Charles Schofield [see below] according to 1828 Land Tax records for Kingston. Wikipedia reports that the name is a gradual corruption of the original “*Sinden Wells*” which, it says, appeared on maps from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> The reference cited is Wyld’s Railway Guide [1839], which called the area “*Soothing Wells*”. However, Wyld does not refer to such maps and “*Soothing Wells*” is not marked on the map contained in the Guide, although Surbiton is marked.<sup>3</sup> Tradition has it that the area known as “*Seething Wells*” today was so named because of springs that once existed there.<sup>4</sup>

## SEETHING WELLS DISTRICT

Today, it is remembered by Seething Wells Lane, KT6 5NP, and Kingston University’s Seething Wells Halls of Residence, KT6 5PJ, which incorporate several of the old buildings of the former Lambeth and Chelsea Waterworks Companies [**Figures 1 & 2**].<sup>5</sup> The Enumerator’s Schedule of the 1841 Census of Kingston, for District 13, identified a milestone at Seething Wells and recorded Thomas Best, a publican, [see below]. It noted that the “*New Town*”, i.e., the embryo Surbiton being developed by Thomas Pooley, was excluded from the survey.<sup>6</sup> **Figure 5** is an edited section of the six-inch Ordnance Survey map of Middlesex, Sheet XXV, first surveyed in 1864. The Seething Wells area then lay between what is the modern-day Portsmouth Road to the west, Maple Road to the east, Westfield Road to the north and Brighton Road to the south. In 1900, for the purpose of forthcoming elections to the Surbiton District Council, Seething Wells ward comprised “*that portion of the district lying between St James’ and Westfield roads and Fleece Road and the Recreation Ground*”.<sup>7</sup> The 1911 Census identified two “*Seething Wells Cottages*” in Portsmouth Road, close to the junction with Brighton Road. Currently, the area is part of the St Marks and Seething Wells Ward of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 1. Sign at the junction of Seething Well Lane with Brighton Road, KT6 5NP. Photograph by David A. Kennedy, 15/4/2025.**



**Figure 2. Sign at the gatehouse of Seething Wells Halls of Residence, Portsmouth Road, KT6 5PJ. Photograph by David A. Kennedy, 15/4/2025.**

## **THE SPRING WATER'S PROPERTIES**

John Aubrey, the antiquary, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, wrote that at the west end of Kingston upon Thames, “*about half a mile from the Bowling Green*” was a spring that was “*cold in the summer and warm in the winter*” which “*bubbles up and called Seething-Well*”. According to Aubrey “*The inhabitants thereabout do use it to wash their eyes with it and drink of it.*” He began his “*Perambulation of the County of Surrey*” in 1673 and finished it in 1692. The resultant book was published in 1718.<sup>9</sup> Whether Aubrey visited the area himself or relied on information from a local inhabitant is unknown. The report of the usage of the spring water tends to support Aubrey’s reliance on local information.

The Rev. Stephen Hales, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Perpetual Curate of Teddington in Middlesex, wrote in 1740 about the properties of various spring waters. While he mentioned the waters from Coombe Hill, he did not mention those of Seething Wells, although the source was relatively close to Teddington.<sup>10</sup> This might suggest that Hales did not think that the waters had remarkable properties, e.g., they were warm in the winter.

A version of Wyld's Railway Guide, dated 1839, but which may have been published later, referred to "*the medicinal spring at Soothing Wells*" [sic] and suggested that, along with the medical spring at Epsom, it was "*one of the earliest springs in vogue of the number of the London basin.*"<sup>11</sup> Wyld listed some other springs, and noted their mineral content, but he said nothing about the "*Soothing Wells*" water.<sup>12</sup> Some versions of Wyld's Guide do not mention "*Soothing Wells*" at all.<sup>13</sup>

Lewis' Topographical Directory [1845], referred to the Kingston upon Thames area and mentioned Coombe Conduit as a water supply to Hampton Court. But, Seething Wells was not mentioned. This might suggest that it was not significant at the time.

In 1852, William Downing Biden in his *History and Antiquities of the Ancient and Royal Town of Kingston upon Thames*, wrote that Seething Wells was a small district where the Brighton Road branched out from the Portsmouth Road and where there existed "*a spring of warm water once in great repute*", and that the water was "*once thought an almost infallible in certain cases of ophthalmia*". Although Biden claimed that his book was "*compiled from the most authentic documents*" he did not provide a reference for this statement.

On 3 April 1852, *The Illustrated London News* reported the opening of the new Lambeth Water Company's waterworks at "*Seething Wells, Ditton*". The *Illustrated Times* of 8 May 1858 indicated that the waterworks of the Chelsea Water Company, at "*Seething Wells, Kingston upon Thames*", were then open. Mr and Mrs S. C. Hall, in their *Book of the Thames* [1859] stated that the Chelsea and Lambeth Waterworks were in "*Seething Wells*". And, in a footnote, they wrote that the hot spring there once was thought to be an almost infallible remedy in certain cases of ophthalmia.

Rowley W. C. Richardson [1888] repeated Biden's views on the medicinal properties of the water of Seething Wells and stated that the source, a spring, was not clearly marked on any map or plan that was available to him at the time of writing. However, he said that it was shown, on a plan attached to the award of the Surbiton Enclosures Commission in 1838, to be on the riverside of the Portsmouth Road close

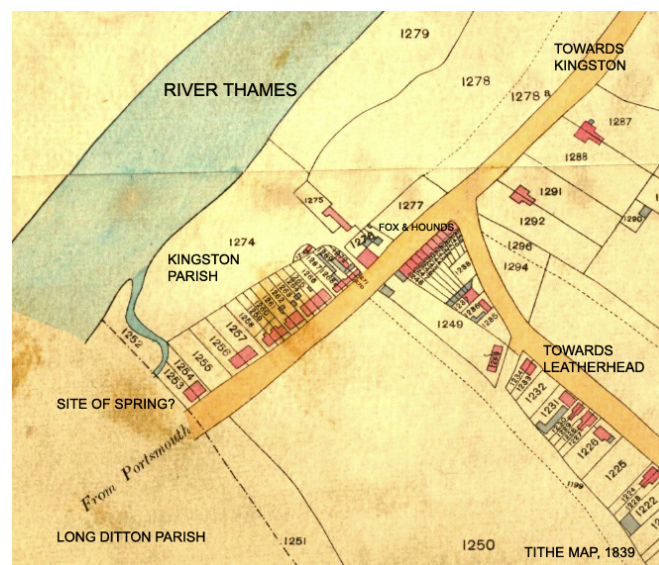


to the boundary of Kingston Parish on land then occupied by the Chelsea Waterworks filter beds. According to Richardson, in a survey made in 1846 for the Lambeth Company there was a spring marked a little further on the Portsmouth Road, but in “Ditton” parish, with a small stream running from it down to the river. In Richardson’s opinion, this spring more probably was once called the “Seething Well”. No attempt was made to research the plans of 1838 or the survey of 1846 that Richardson mentioned.<sup>14</sup>

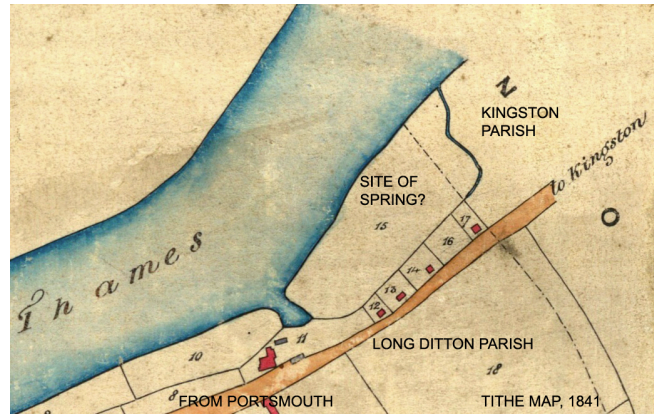
Edward Walford [1898] wrote that in the previous century springs, such as the one of Seething Wells and at Coombe, were considered very valuable for their medicinal properties. He continued, “*The hot spring at Seething Wells was even held to be an invaluable remedy in certain cases of ophthalmia*” and he hoped that the day would come when “*the waters of Coombe and Seething be proved as healing as those of the more distant German or Belgian spa.*”<sup>15</sup>

George William Ayliffe [1914] reported that the Fox and Hounds pub in the Seething Wells area was not to be confounded with the present hostelry of that name. The original pub, he said, was “*on the other side of the road and at the back of it was a meadow running down to the Thames and fringed with willow trees...and at the end of the old Fox and Hounds stood a very old ivy-covered well-house which contained the original well and spring which became so famous as “Seething Wells”.*” Ayliffe reported that the Fox and Hounds was, in 1838, kept by Thomas Best.<sup>16</sup>

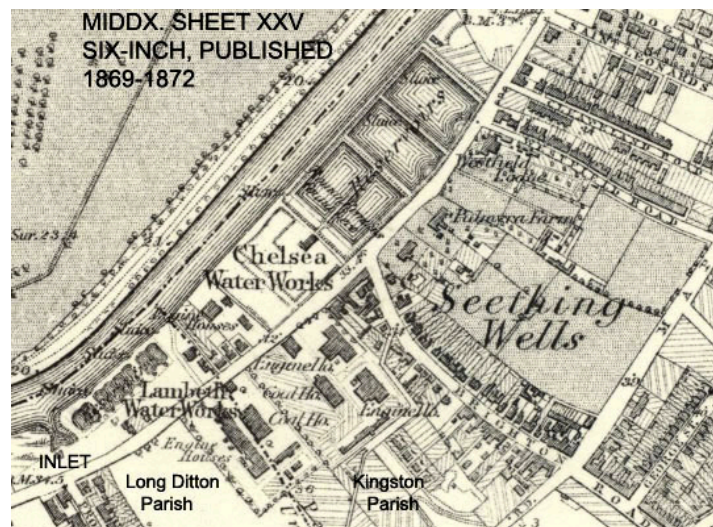
## OLD MAPS



**Figure 3. Edited section of the Tithe Map for Kingston Parish, 1839.  
The dotted line is the parish boundary.**



**Figure 4. Edited section of the Tithe Map for Long Ditton Parish, 1841.  
The dotted line is the parish boundary.**



**Figure 5. Edited section of the six-inch OS map of Middlesex, Sheet XXV,  
surveyed in 1864. The dotted line is the parish boundary.**

**Figure 3** is an edited section of the Tithe Map for Kingston upon Thames parish surveyed about 1840. The scale is unclear. The dotted line extending to the river shows the boundary of Long Ditton and Kingston Parishes. Note the stream between plots 1252 & 1274, that flows into the Thames, which appears to have originated in Long Ditton, and plot 1276, which according to the corresponding Apportionment was the Fox & Hounds pub, occupied by Thomas Best. Plot 1275, land behind the pub with a building, was also occupied by him. Plot 1274, owned by Ebenezer Fuller Maitland and occupied by Charles Lambert, was recorded as a yard and wharf. The road marked “To Leatherhead” follows the line of today’s Brighton Road.





However, we have Ayliffe's [1825-1915] account that the "...*original well and spring which became so famous as Seething Wells*" was located behind the Fox and Hounds, as shown in **Figure 3** and probably in Plot 1275. In 1840, the approximate date of the Tithe Maps and Apportionments, Ayliffe would have been about fifteen years old and could have seen the feature for himself. The reliability of his memory has been questioned before.<sup>17</sup> But, he was right in his observation that the landlord of the Fox and Hounds pub and occupier of the plot behind it, was Thomas Best. And Ayliffe could have been reporting a belief, prevalent at the time, about the location of the spring. Possibly, it was the one identified in the 1838 plan cited by Richardson [above], on the land where the Chelsea Waterworks' reservoirs are shown in **Figure 5**.

In the 25-inch OS, map of Surrey, Sheet XXII, surveyed in 1864-7 and published in 1898, "*Well*" clearly is marked on a causeway between the waterworks reservoirs almost opposite the junction of Brighton Road with Portsmouth Road. Possibly, this is the site of the well reported by Ayliffe [**Figure 7**] and perhaps it was utilised by The Chelsea Water Company. However, it is not close to the Fox & Hounds pub at the junction of Portsmouth Road and Westfield Road, as marked on **Figure 7**, and which still occupies this site. Rather, it was close to a pub on the junction of Portsmouth Road and Brighton Road. Richard Holmes in his *Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Kingston* identifies it as "*The Globe*" and this is supported by the 1911 Census. Possibly Ayliffe memory failed him again. Nevertheless, wherever it was exactly located, the feature will be called "*Ayliffe's Well*" hereafter.

**Figure 8** is a photograph of a causeway between reservoirs on the derelict Chelsea Waterworks site, recently taken from Portsmouth Road close to the Junction with Brighton Road. This shows a graffiti-covered feature that corresponds with the well that is marked in **Figure 6**. Behind the wall in the distance lies the Thames and the row of trees are on the Middlesex side of the river.

## DISCUSSION

Three questions arise: where exactly was the Seething Wells spring, what were its properties, and was there ever a spa associated with the spring?

### Location of the spring

A spring can be caused when rainfall saturates a catchment area that lies above a relatively impervious layer. Then, gravitational pressure causes water to flow out at the relatively impervious layer and may be described as "*seething*" from the surface, whence it is accessible.<sup>18</sup> On the other hand, a well is a feature where a shaft is dug

to obtain water that is underground and otherwise is inaccessible. In the case of Seething Wells, the most likely catchment area was Surbiton Hill before building developments and drainage in the mid-nineteenth century prevented rainwater from saturating the ground. The elevation at the top of Surbiton Hill is approximately 36 m OD, while the nominal river level adjacent to the old waterworks site is approximately 8 m OD. The nominal elevation of Portsmouth Road above the old waterworks site is approximately 10 m OD.

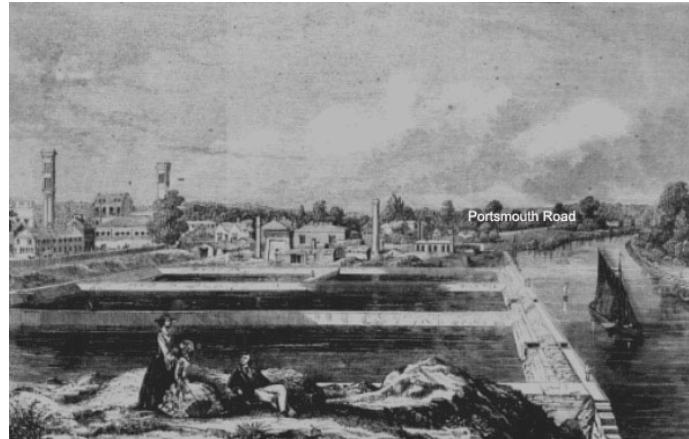


**Figure 7. Possible site of the well reported by Ayliffe, 1914. Photograph of the derelict Chelsea waterworks by David A. Kennedy, 21/4/2025.**

When viewing the site through the railings on Portsmouth Road, almost opposite its junction with Brighton Road, it is obvious that the level of the old reservoirs is markedly lower than that of the road. Moreover, with reference to **Figure 7**, it can be imagined that before the waterworks were constructed, the site was, according to Ayliffe, a meadow which was fringed with willow trees at the edge of the river. If before the waterworks development there once existed a layer of ground that was resistant to water pressure, a spring would be feasible in the area.

**Figure 8** shows the site in 1858 looking upstream towards Thames Ditton. At the place marked "*Portsmouth Road*" in the middle distance the ground slopes down to the river's edge, where some foliage can be identified. Allowing for perspective, possibly the land in the foreground was like this before the waterworks was constructed. The elegant ladies and the gentleman appear to be sitting on a mound of earth that had been excavated from the site of the reservoirs. The Surrey Comet of

31 December 1864 under the heading “*The Mound at Seething Wells*” speculated that the earth was suitable for brick making or for the improvement of the Promenade, i.e., today’s Queen’s Promenade.



**Figure 8. Edited drawing entitled “*Reservoirs of the Chelsea Water Company at Seething Wells, Kingston upon Thames*”, Illustrated Times, 8 May 1858**

Aubrey, 1718, located the spring of Seething Wells about half a mile from the “*pleasant Bowling Green by the Conduit*”. By this he meant the place where the pipes carrying water from Coombe Conduit to Hampton Court Palace crossed the bed of the Thames. Ayliffe, 1914, identifies this place, thus adding support to Aubrey’s report of the Seething Wells area of Surbiton.<sup>19</sup> Richardson, 1888, who could not have seen the spring for himself, was of the opinion that it was in Long Ditton parish close to the border with Kingston parish and there is evidence to support this [Figures 4 & 5]. Nevertheless, this spring will be called “*Richardson’s spring*” hereafter.

On the other hand, Ayliffe, 1914, who could have seen the spring himself, located it at the back of the original Fox and Hounds pub situated in Kingston parish. To support this, the OS map of 1898 [Figure 6] shows a well where possibly the original pub was located.

Additionally, today on the site of the old Chelsea Waterworks there is a feature that corresponds to the well mentioned by Ayliffe [Figure 7]. However, in today’s usage, there is a difference in meaning between the word “*spring*” to connote a feature in which water issues naturally from the surface of the ground and “*well*” which connotes a shaft that has been dug to access water below the surface. Furthermore, Ayliffe used the term “*well and spring*” which adds further confusion. While Richardson’s spring probably ceased to deliver water when the catchment area on Surbiton Hill was

urbanised and the waterworks were constructed, the well, marked on the roughly 161 m away, remains a feature of the old waterworks site and may still contain water.

**Summary:** The exact location of Richardson's spring cannot accurately be determined, but probably it lay roughly on the old Lambeth waterworks site approximately opposite the Kingston University's Halls of Residence. However, according to Ayliffe, 1914, the well and spring were located in Kingston parish, on the old waterworks site, approximately opposite the junction of Brighton Road with Portsmouth Road. The sites of Richardson's spring and Ayliffe's well and spring are relatively close.

**Water temperature.** Aubrey, 1718, reported that the water was "*cold in the summer and warm in the winter*". However, it seems unlikely that he measured the temperature of the water in the summer and in the winter. The geology of the local area is not recognised as a region of hot springs, such as Bath Spa in Somerset which delivered water at about 45°C. It is very difficult to accept that Seething Wells ever delivered warm water only in the winter; which is short of miraculous.<sup>20</sup> Probably what Aubrey meant was that the spring delivered water at a constant temperature all year round. This is the writer's experience of the water in the cisterns of Coombe Conduit, which was always cool to the touch all year round.<sup>21</sup>

Wyld, 1839, said nothing at all about the temperature of the Seething Wells water and surely he would have said something about it to encourage a visit. Biden, 1852, reported that the spring delivered "*warm water*" and the Halls, 1859, wrote of a "*hot spring*". Walford, 1898, referred to a belief in the previous century that the Seething Wells water, was emitted "*hot*" from its source. There is a difference between water that subjectively is to the touch, cool, warm or considered to be hot, i.e., at about 45°C. Arguably, we can see a development of a belief that is founded on an original statement by Aubrey that may not have arisen from a first-hand, objective observation.

**Summary:** Historical reports that the Seething Wells water was cold in the summer and warm in the winter, was warm all year round, or ever was hot, are unfounded.

**Medicinal properties.** Aubrey, 1718, reported that the Seething Wells water was used by local inhabitants to wash their eyes, thus implying that it was medicinal. Biden, 1852, stated that the spring water was "*once thought an almost infallible in certain cases of ophthalmia*". Wyld, 1839, said nothing about the medicinal properties of the water. The Halls, 1859, also wrote that the spring water once was thought to be an almost infallible remedy in certain cases of ophthalmia. Clearly, their use of the past

tense indicated a reliance on earlier accounts of the spring. Richardson, 1888, mentioned the medicinal properties of the Seething Wells water, but said nothing about its temperature: probably he echoed earlier accounts of the spring. Walford, 1898, referred to a belief in the previous century that the Seething Wells water had valuable medicinal properties, particularly for the treatment of ophthalmia: probably, like the others, referred to an earlier belief about the medicinal properties of the spring water.

Overall, there is historical evidence of a belief that the Seething Wells water was useful in treating cases of ophthalmia. This begs the question, what is, or was, ophthalmia?

Butterworth's Medical Dictionary, 1978, says that ophthalmia is a term usually applied to conjunctivitis but sometimes is used loosely for inflammation of the whole eye. It indicates that the affliction can be caused by a microbial infection or can be due to an allergic reaction.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, Dr J. Slade, 1838, in his treatise on ophthalmia, said that a foreign body in the eye, among other things, could give rise to conjunctivitis and that a fomentation of warm water could bring relief by relieving pain.<sup>23</sup>

**Summary:** It is reasonable to assume that bathing an afflicted eye with pure, non-irritant warm spring water could bring relief to a sufferer from conjunctivitis.

**Was there ever a spa at Seething Wells?** The OED defines "*spa*" in terms of a town, locality or resort possessing a medicinal spring or springs to which people travel to take the waters to improve their health. Examples in England include the spas at Bath in Somerset, Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and Buxton in Derbyshire, that were fashionable in their times. What evidence is there that people travelled to Seething Wells to take the waters?

Aubrey, 1718, talked of "*the inhabitants*" who used the Seething Wells waters, but he did not mention other users. Wyld, 1838, said that "*Soothing Wells*" was "*one of the earliest springs in vogue of the number of the London basin*", which implies that people travelled there to take the waters. However, Wyld was the author of a guidebook that appeared to have set out to encourage use of the new London & Southampton Railway for tourism. Indeed, it was dedicated to the Chairman, The Board of Directors and The Engineer of the railway company. While he records Bermondsey Spa, Islington Spa and Norwood Beulah Spa, Wyld does not identify "*Soothing Wells*" as a spa.

Ayliffe says that "*opposite the well house at Seething Wells stood a row of wooden cottages which faced an open ditch that was a receptacle for refuse*". In the light of



this, the area does not have the appearance of a spa to which fashionable people would wish to travel to take the waters. Moreover, probably the speculative Thomas Pooley and his son Alexander Gopsell Pooley would have seized on the existence of a spa, or potential for one, very near to the new town that became Surbiton.<sup>24</sup>

Walford, 1898, was thinking wishfully when he hoped that the day would come when “*the waters of Coombe and Seething be proved as healing as those of the more distant German or Belgian spa.*” Butters, in 2013, cites Aubrey, 1718, as a source and says that there was a spa at Seething Wells in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but gave no reference to support it. Aubrey did not mention a spa at Seething Wells.

**Summary:** Belief in the existence of a spa at Seething Wells possibly originated in Wyld’s Railway Guide, 1839, to encourage railway tourism. The belief was developed by the wishful thinking of Walford, 1898, and was echoed by Butters, 2013.



**Figure 9.** Looking through the waterworks’ railings, a well head can be seen in the middle-ground. Richardson’s spring would have been beyond the “Spring Area”. On the left of this can be seen the Pump House.  
Photograph by David A. Kennedy, 8/5/2025.



**Figure 10. The derelict and despoiled Pump House.**  
**Photograph by David A Kennedy, 22/2/2022**

## CONCLUSIONS

With reference to Tithe maps, the Seething Wells spring was located, according to Richardson, 1888, in Long Ditton parish, close to its border with Kingston parish, i.e., on the old waterworks site approximately opposite to where the Kingston University's Halls of Residence now stand. However, according to Ayliffe, 1914, the well and spring was located in Kingston parish, on the old waterworks site, approximately opposite the junction of Brighton Road with Portsmouth Road. There is a feature on the ruinous waterworks site which could be the well behind the original Fox and Hounds pub, as reported by Ayliffe. These two sites are relatively close. There is no evidence that the Seething Wells water ever was cold in the summer and warm in the winter, always was warm, or always was hot. There is no evidence that Seething Wells ever was a spa.

<sup>1</sup> See Compact version of OED, 1971 and Concise version of OED, 1982.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seething\\_Wells](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seething_Wells)

<sup>3</sup> James Wyld, 1838, Wyld's Railway Guide, 1839, The South Western or London, Southampton and Portsmouth Railway Guide, London, James Wyld. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seething\\_Wells](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seething_Wells)

<sup>4</sup> Shaan Butters, 2013, That Famous Place. A History of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston, Kingston University Press, p.180. She cites John Aubrey, 1718, as a source and says that there was a spa at Seething Wells in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but does not give a reference for it.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/experience/accommodation/halls-of-residence/seething-wells>

<sup>6</sup> David A Kennedy, [www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk](http://www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk) 2016, Advent of Suburbia. Thomas Pooley, the Railway and Surbiton.

<sup>7</sup> Surrey Comet, 8 December 1900, letter from William S. Pirie, a candidate for election.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/file/1654/st-marks-and-seething-wells-ward>

<sup>9</sup> John Aubrey, 1718, Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey, Vol. 1.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31175035531923&view=1up&seq=103>

<sup>10</sup> Stephen Hales, 1740, Statical essays containing haemastatics; Or an account of some hydraulic and hydrostatical experiments made on some blood and blood vessels of animals. Also an account of

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some experiments on stones in the kidney and bladder; With an enquiry into the nature of these anomalous concretions, Volume 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Corrected, London.

<sup>11</sup> James Wyld, 1838, Wyld's Railway Guide, 1839, The South Western or London, Southampton and Portsmouth Railway Guide, London, James Wyld

<sup>12</sup> For example, he said that the waters of Bagnigge Wells were "chalybeate and carthartic". Chalybeate waters contain salts of iron. "*Carthartic*", at the time, could have meant that the water had laxative properties.

<sup>13</sup> For example, the reproduced copy version entitled The South Western, or London, Southampton, and Portsmouth Railway Guide, 2019, Miami, HardPress.

<sup>14</sup> Rowley W. C. Richardson, 1888, Surbiton. Thirty-two Years of Local Self-Government, London, British Library Historical Print Editions.

<sup>15</sup> Edward Walford, 1898, Greater London. A narrative of its history, its people and its places, Vol. 2, London, Cassell & Co. Ltd.

<sup>16</sup> George William Ayliffe, 1914, Old Kingston. Recollections of an Octogenarian, from 1830 and onwards with reminiscences of Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Knapp Drewett & Sons Ltd, reprinted 1972.

<sup>17</sup> David A Kennedy, 2004, History of Prisons in Kingston upon Thames. Part 1, published privately.

<sup>18</sup> Virtual Tour of Coombe Conduit...

<sup>19</sup> See endnote 10 and R. W. Gallois, 2006, The Geology of the Hot Spring Springs at Bath Spa, Somerset, Geosciences in South-West England, 11, 168-173.

[https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/4841/1/Hot\\_Springs\\_2006.pdf](https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/4841/1/Hot_Springs_2006.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> [https://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Geology\\_of\\_the\\_Bath\\_area:\\_Applied\\_geology:\\_hydrogeology](https://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Geology_of_the_Bath_area:_Applied_geology:_hydrogeology)

<sup>21</sup> David A Kennedy, 2020, A virtual tour of Coombe Conduit. [www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk](http://www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk)

<sup>22</sup> Butterworth's Medical Dictionary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1978, London & Boston, Butterworths.

<sup>23</sup> J. Slade, 1838, Ophthalmia. The Various Inflammations of The Conjunctiva, or Mucous Membrane of the Eye, London, Parbury & Co.

<sup>24</sup> See endnote 6.